

Applicant : Michael P. Ronan
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the "Brief Description Of The Drawings" section with the following amended section:

FIG. 1 is a left side perspective view of a folding carton manufactured in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a right side perspective view of the folding carton in a partially closed position;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a carton blank used in the manufacture of the carton;

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of a first embodiment of the carton blank;

FIG. 5 is a top plan view of a second embodiment of the carton blank

FIG. 6 is a bottom plan view of the second embodiment of the carton blank;

FIG. 7 is a side elevational view of a portion of the carton showing the manufacturer's joint according to the first embodiment; ~~and~~

FIG. 8 is a side elevational view of a portion of the carton showing the manufacturer's joint according to the second embodiment[.];

FIG. 9 is a bottom plan view of an alternative embodiment of the carton blank; and

FIG. 10 is a cross sectional view of the first embodiment of the carton blank through line 10.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21, and ending on page 7, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

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The carton 1 will now be described in greater detail with reference to FIGS. 3-8, which show the carton blank 10 used in the manufacture of the carton 1 of the preferred embodiment. FIG. 3 shows the front surface of a blank 10 for forming the carton 1. As shown the carton 1 is preferably manufactured from a one-piece, laminated paperboard blank 10 that is folded in a conventional manner to form the carton 1. In the preferred embodiment, the paperboard blank is manufactured from conventional paperboard materials having a thickness of approximately .010 to .024 inches. The specific paperboard will vary from application to application based primarily on the desired characteristics of the carton. In the preferred embodiment, the blank 10 has coated front and back surfaces. It is not necessary, however, for any portion of the front surface of the blank to be coated. The coating 56, when used, can be applied by any method known in the art for applying coatings to paperboard, such as by a printing press. The coating 56 is preferably a UV varnish, though any of a wide variety of conventional paperboard coatings could be used. In a preferred embodiment, the front surface of the blank 10 is coated with a UV varnish and the rear surface is also coated with a UV varnish.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13, and ending on page 11, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

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The adhesive panel 15 is affixed to the right panel 11 using conventional adhesives. Shown in Fig. 10, the adhesive 55 used is preferably a water-based adhesive, but other adhesives such as solvent based adhesives and hot melts may also be used. In the preferred embodiment, the adhesive 55 is a water based cold adhesive. The adhesive 55 is preferably applied in a line extending substantially along the entire length of the adhesive panel 15. There are many methods common in the art for applying such adhesives. For example, the adhesive can be rolled onto the adhesive panel 15 along the punch scores 8, and the adhesive panel 15 and right panel 11 can be pressed together to bind them. This technique is generally performed during the folding process, though it can be done at any time prior to sealing. Another method is to coat the strip of the adhesive panel 15 where the punch scores 8 are located with a heat activated adhesive. The adhesive panel 15 and right panel 11 are then heated and pressed together to bind them. With this method, the adhesive 55 is generally applied to the blank 10 prior to folding, but it can be applied at any time prior to sealing. It is known in the art that the adhesive 55 used can be applied to the adhesive panel 15, right panel 11, or both as long as the adhesive 55 will contact both the punch scores 8 and knock outs 9 when the appropriate panels are in contact. Whatever method is used, the strip of adhesive 55 applied preferably is applied from the top to the bottom of the appropriate panel through the punch scores 8 or knock outs 9. In addition, the strip preferably does not extend beyond the width of the punch scores 8.

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a However, if the strip does extend beyond the width of the punch scores 8, the operability of the easy-open carton will not be affected. If an uncoated stripe 42 is present, the adhesive 55 should run the length of the uncoated stripe 42.
